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The Battleship Question.

At the moment when we are finishing the copy for this issue, it is impossible to tell what the outcome of the conflict in Congress over the number of additional battleships to be ordered this year is to be. The consideration of the subject has been much delayed by the demands of the national political conventions, and there is fear that the matter may be rushed through at the end of the session without due consideration.

The House of Representatives resisted every attempt to amend the report of the Naval Committee by inserting a provision for the construction of two new Dreadnaughts, or even one. Amendments proposing two ships, and then one ship, were promptly voted down, and the bill went to the Senate as it had come from the House Committee on Naval Affairs, without any appropriation for Dreadnaughts.

The Senate Committee on Naval Affairs has amended the House bill by inserting a provision for two first-class battleships of the largest type and the most expen-

sive construction. But the subject has not yet come up in the Senate for action. It will be taken up shortly and the Senate will, without doubt, support the amendments introduced into the bill by its Naval Committee. Then the measure goes to a conference committee of the two houses. As each house seems determined to carry through, if possible, its own view, the conflict in the conference committee will doubtless be a strenuous and possibly a somewhat prolonged one. The recommendation of this committee, if it should agree upon a compromise, will then go back to the Senate and the House for final action.

The two-battleship program of the Senate does not stand the least chance of adoption. From all that can be learned, it seems probable that the House will recede from its position far enough to permit the addition of one first-class battleship, though many members of the House show no disposition to make any concession at all, and the vote against any increase of the navy this year is sure to be much larger than it has ever before been.

We do not need to give again our oft-repeated reasons for believing that there is no occasion at the present time, from any point of view, to further increase the United States navy.

Republican Party on Peace.

The platform adopted by the Republican National Convention at Chicago, on June 22, contains two excellent planks on the subject of international peace. They are as follows:

"Together with peaceful and orderly development at home, the Republican party earnestly favors all measures for the establishment and protection of the peace of the world and for the development of closer relations between the various nations of the earth.

"It believes most earnestly in the peaceful settlement of international disputes and in the reference of all justiciable controversies between nations to an international court of justice."

Those are admirable statements and up to the best sentiment of the time on the proper relations which should prevail among the nations, and on the civilized method of settlement of international controversies. We regret very deeply that alongside of these two strong, progressive planks, the convention felt impelled to put in the following vague and feeble statement on the subject of an "adequate navy" and the inopportune fling at the Democratic House of Representatives for declining to authorize the construction of additional battleships: